

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6600

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FOR USAID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER; IGA FOR TODD; EB FOR
ENDERS; AA/AFR FOR ADAMS; AF FOR EASUM

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TZ

SUBJECT: TANGOV FOOD SITUATION AND IGA VIEW

REF: TODD/PARKER LETTER DATED 9/13/74 RE TANZANIA FOOD
GR UN SITUATION

1. I HAVE JUST SEEN A COPY OF THE ABOVE REFERENCE WHICH
COMMENTS ON AN INFORMAL INSPECTION MADE IN TANZANIA BY
IG PERSONNEL GULLIVAN AND FINE AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 2.
2. SINCE INSPECTOR GENERAL TODD'S LETTER TO ADMINISTRATOR
PARKER RAISES SO MANY ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS, I WISH COMMENT
FOR THE RECORD.
3. IN EMBASSY/MISSION DISCUSSIONS WITH IG INSPECTORS, WE
EMPHASIZED SELF-HELP MEASURES TANGOV HAD TAKEN, MASSIVE
FOOD IMPORTS WHICH HAD DRAINED FOREIGN EXCHANGE, THE FOOD
CRISIS THAT EXISTED, IMPACT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND
OTHER FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD NEEDS. WE WERE
CANDID ABOUT TANGOV PROBLEMS BOTH PRO AND CON. A CHARTER
PLANE WAS PROVIDED SO INSPECTORS COULD OBSERVE DROUGHT
AREAS FIRSTHAND. HOWEVER, WE CAUTIONED THAT RAINS HAD
COME SINCE THE END OF THE DROUGHT, THUS AREAS OBSERVED
WOULD NOT ALWAYS REFLECT DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

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4. BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR DROUGHT AREAS, GULLIVAN STRESSED

HIS WASHINGTON REPORT WOULD BE ORAL AND IN HIS OPINION TANZANIA DESERVED CONSIDERATION. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS MISSION'S BRIEFINGS HAD BEEN EXCEEDINGLY FAIR. NOTHING CLOSE TO CONTEGWS TODD'S LETTER WAS INDICATED BY GULLIVAN. FINE DID NOT VISIT DROUGHT AREAS AND SPENT HIS TIME IN DAR AND ARUSHA.

5. GULLIVAN SAW PART OF TWO REGIONS OF NORTHERN TANZANIA FROM THE AIR. HE SAID SUKUMALAND LOOKED BETTER THAN HE ANTICIPATED BUT MASAILAND LOOKED "LIKE THE FACE OF THE MOON". IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE FROM THIS SHORT TRIP HOW EITHER IG REPS COULD HAVE DETERMINED CROP YIELDS WERE HIGHER THAN FIELD REPORTS INDICATED.

6. MR. TODD'S CHARACTERIZATION OF TANZANIA AS "SOCIALIST/ COMMUNIST" IS GRATUITOUS TO SAY THE LEAST. BUT EVEN IF TANZANIA POLICIES ARE ILLCONCEIVED, FACT REMAINS THAT COME FIRST QUARTER 1975, THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO FACE AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOOD CRISIS. (FYI: I HAVE LEARNED YESTERDAY THAT ALL MAIZE ORDERED AND ON THE SEA BY THE NATIONAL MILLING CORPORATION WILL BE EXHAUSTED BY JANUARY 1, 1975; WHEAT BY FEBRUARY 1 AND RICE BY MARCH 1. LOCAL PURCHASES OF MAIN CEREALS BY NMC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 1974 ARE RUNNING 70 TO 80 PERCENT BEHIND SIMILAR PURCHASES IN THE 1973-74 FISCAL PERIOD. WITH PURCHASES BEING SO SMALL, THE OUTLOOK FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD IS INDEED DISMAL. END FYI.)

7. I VERY MUCH REGRET THAT SUCH A SEEMINGLY AUTHORITATIVE LETTER AND REPORT EMERGES FROM THE MOST FLIMSY EVIDENCE. CARTER

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